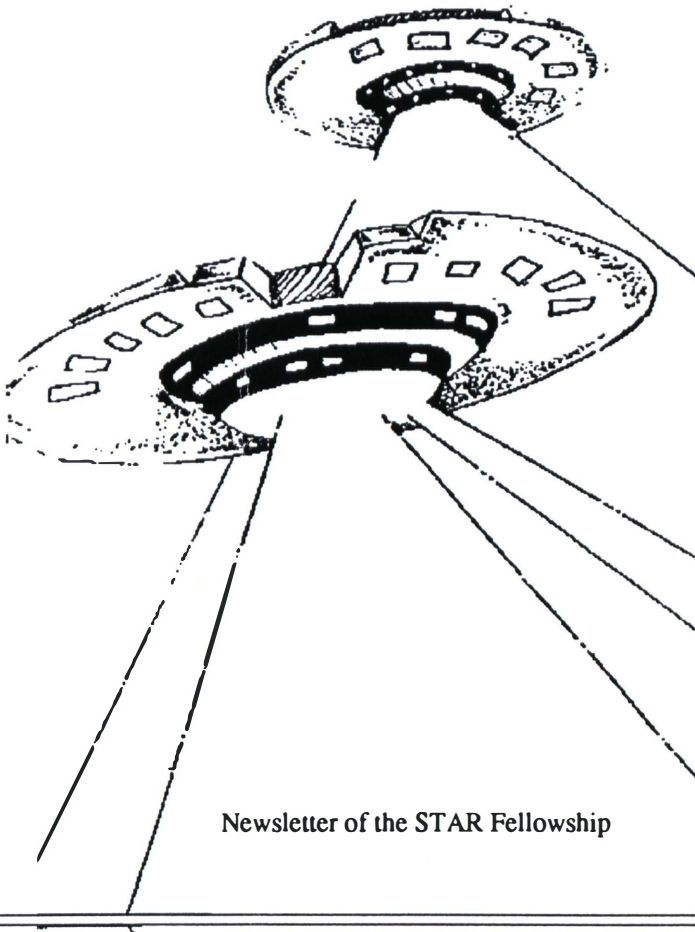


АМСКАЯ



Newsletter of the STAR Fellowship

EARTHSTARS

This book, recently brought out by C.E. Street, is a very deep and thought-provoking one, beginning with geometrical discoveries concerning the ancient sites in London and expanding to bring forward many intriguing philosophical concepts concerning the New Age. It is therefore a little sad that he has to begin with the now familiar jibe about extraterrestrials:

The extremely cynical and those who have read some of Von Daniken's early books will be relieved to learn at this early stage in the proceedings that landscape gardeners from outer space do not loom large in any of my answers. As far as I am aware, this is not the handiwork of a flying saucer full of little green Capability Browns.

Nevertheless, having thought so deeply about man and creation and their interaction, he cannot avoid the thought that the things he describes cannot be limited to this small planet only:

The nature of the sites involved clearly indicates that they are fundamentally tied up in the spiritual affairs of humanity and may be more readily understood from that perspective. Nor are they limited to London, Britain, or even the Earth. They have inescapable cosmic connections. They are a manifestation of the formative forces of creation, the life-force, not just of this planet, but of the entire universe. The ultimate power source.

And also:

Humanity, it seems, is not an isolated outbreak of life in a hostile, inanimate universe. Man, Earth and cosmos are inextricably bound up in a vast web of life, an unlimited energy field that permeates, maintains and motivates everything from galaxies, stars and planets to minds, bodies and souls. The universe is alive and intelligent. It knows what it's doing, even if we mere mortals don't.

The book is highly recommended to all interested in the mysteries of this and other worlds, as Arthur C. Clarke would put it.

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OUTSIDE HELP
by Tony Wedd

Part 3

About this time Philip used to bring with him a little gadget the size of a grapefruit which he held in one hand. It was a "yonskaler", the word meaning earth-sky, a device for improving his communications. This had been several times reconstructed, an incredible achievement for one with poor eyesight and few tools, as it contained over a hundred pieces, bits of copper, brass, aluminium and stainless steel, and a couple of crystals (calcite and galena), which he has been able to pick up in the spoil heaps of old mines on the Derbyshire-Yorkshire border.

He was in the process of modifying it during my visit, and I had noticed a little aluminium star which he called an "amskaya", a word which I think I received and he translated. It should have had seven points, I was sure, but I pointed out to Philip that it had eight; he had to go over it very carefully with his fingers to count the points. Via Winifred we heard that the space people knew of this mistake too. "Never use even numbered metals" came over on her writing pad, an interesting piece of ambivalence, as it seemed to me to refer not only to even-numbered shapes, but to the "base metals" in the atomic table which had even atomic numbers; zinc 30, tin 50, lead 82 and so on. I already knew that they preferred the noble metals; copper 29, silver 47 and gold 79, and that Philip had been forbidden to use cheap solders which contained the base metals. Here was a chemical principle which covered these distinctions, and threw new light on a remark made to Adamski: "You men of Earth continually invite disaster by creating combinations which are opposing each other rather than working together".

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DRAWING A BLANK WITH THE CELESTIAL SURVEYORS' LEY OF THE LAND
from The Guardian, December 27th, 1990.

Gordon Harris didn't expect fame and fortune but he did expect the archaeological world to be mildly excited when he announced his great discovery. Archaeological groups and individuals, ranged from silence to downright abuse. He's working on Norfolk at the moment, and he is courteously pained by people who can't see what he spots at a glance in the labyrinth of roads, lanes, and tracks on the 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey map, spread out on his diningroom table.

Isn't it obvious? He spells it out with ruled red lines. There are the old straight tracks, first identified—to howls of establishment outrage—by Alfred Watkins back in the 1920s, linking stone circles, hill forts, mounds, standing stones, and, millennia later, churches and manor houses.

So far, so straight along the ley lines, but the ley line hunters want no more to do with Mr Harris than the archaeologists. His straight tracks converge on what he calls nodal points. Sometimes these are crossroads in villages or towns. More often they are marked by no feature except the convergence of four, five, six, seven roads, tracks and paths. Like Mr Watkins, Mr Harris believes the monuments are there because the tracks were there first. But Mr Harris looks at his web of red lines, at the distribution of the nodal points and the land between them, and thinks the tracks were there before stone age man started to use them to find his way across the wilderness by setting up waymarks.

Mr Harris, of Frodsham Cheshire, is married with three grown children, has a PhD in chemical engineering from Birmingham, and is a chartered engineer and a trade union rep. "This country is covered with a network of lines. That is fact, the rest is speculation, but to me as an engineer there is a perfectly rational technical explanation for this," he said looking at a surveyor's grid. Alfred Watkins was also interested in surveyors. "The surveyor was the first professional man, with that instinct for power which keeps skilled methods secret."

Mr Harris believes the tracks are the marks of a full survey of the globe, carried out using radio-controlled vehicles, by—take a deep breath—extra-terrestrial intelligent beings. Engineers tend to see the sweet logic of the explanation faster than the scoffing archaeologists. They understand why you wouldn't use a square grid to measure a sphere, why the tracks should continue straight up rock faces and across bogs. Environmentalists, Mr Harris feels, should understand how an advanced civilisation could have made their own planet uninhabitable, and have to seek alternatives.

You can prod Mr Harris down the long straight track to some strange places. At first he thought they sent their survey vehicles, probably without ever needing to land. Then they went away again. "But sometimes I wonder if they did go away again . . . But these, I stress, are only in my wilder moments."

He's having considerable difficulties with Essex, but Norfolk is almost complete. There, plain to him as the great hulk of Stonehenge, are the nodal points, one near Norwich and one—he bends over the map and laughs out loud at a spot in a plantation called Madhouse.

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An unidentified flying object (UFO) is an unusual aerial or potentially airborne object that cannot be readily identified even after expert analysis of the available data in the report of the object. Approximately 90% of raw UFO reports are interpreted as misperceptions of conventional objects, hoaxes, or hallucinations. The remaining 10% constitute the UFO enigma.

The date of the earliest UFO sighting is unknown. Some UFO researchers believe that there were UFO sightings in ancient times. The evidence for such sightings, however, is scanty and therefore purely speculative. Most UFO researchers date the beginning of the UFO phenomenon with the sighting of dirigiblelike "mystery airships" over the United States during 1896-97. The next significant group of reports came during World War II from Allied and Axis pilots who reported seeing strange metallike objects, which they called "foo fighters," in controlled flight around their planes. In 1946 people in Europe, particularly Scandinavia, reported large-scale sightings of silent "ghost rockets." None of these phenomena has been satisfactorily explained.

The UFO phenomenon entered public consciousness on June 24, 1947, when private pilot Kenneth Arnold reported sighting nine circular objects flying across his airplane's path in the skies over the state of Washington. He described their movements as being like "saucers skipping over water" and the term flying saucer was born.

Since 1947 there have been UFO sightings in nearly every country. Occasionally the number of sightings rapidly increases and a UFO wave ensues. For instance, UFO waves occurred in France and Italy in 1954, in New Guinea in 1958, and in the USSR in 1967. In the United States, wave occurred in 1947, 1952, 1957, 1965-67, and 1973. UFO researchers have been unable to predict or explain UFO waves. Attempts to link them to media publicity about UFOs, hysterical contagion, or "societal stress" have proved unsuccessful. Although intensive publicity has prompted people to report sightings they had previously made, such publicity is not considered responsible for new reports.

The number of UFO sightings is great. In 1973 a Gallup poll indicated that 11 percent of the adult population in the United States had seen what they thought was a UFO. So far more than 50,000 worldwide sighting reports have been computerized. A study of these reports suggests that UFO sightings are random, and no pattern of UFO witnesses has been found. Witnesses cut across economic, class, racial, and educational lines. A greater percentage of reports, however, have come from people living in rural areas than from those living in urban areas. The reasons for this disparity are unknown.

Witnesses report a great variety of sizes and shapes of UFOs, including amorphous and changing-shape objects. The classic "two bowls joined at the rim" shape is reported often, but reports of objects shaped like cigars, squares, balls, triangles, rings, and hats are also common.

The majority of reports are of objects seen at great distance, but reports of close observations also exist. Some of the most intriguing reports are of objects seen on or near the ground. Often the person claims that the object left a residue or mark on the ground. Such a sighting is called a "trace case." Sometimes the object is claimed to have had a physical effect on an electrical or mechanical device, causing television interference or automobile engines to stall.

Claims of witnessing the occupants of a UFO have come from sober, reputable, reliable people. These reports must, however, be separated from those of the infamous "contactees," who in the 1950s claimed ongoing contact with "space brothers" who often gave them flying-saucer "rides" to other planets. UFO researchers regard contactee claims as spurious.

THE WINGED SERPENT OF ASHLAND

by Gordon Millington

Part 2.

Good's own position is perfectly clear and he expresses it unequivocally: "It is my conviction," he writes, "that we are being visited by several groups of extraterrestrials and that while some may not be well-disposed towards us, the majority are essentially benevolent." One would like to have some firm evidence of this essential benevolence, however, before accepting it uncritically. Erich von Daniken who suggests that in prehistoric times astronauts from extra-galactic civilisations, who were seen as gods by the early men, came to this Earth to inaugurate genetic and technological innovation. The Dragon or Winged Serpent, said to have been worn as insignia on the right shoulder of the ufonauts who abducted Herbert Schirmer, is directly associated in myth and folklore with those ancient astronauts. As anthropologist John Michell³ puts it: "The discovery that flying saucers, the fiery discs in the sky, were reported in the past as dragons or winged serpents reveals the significance of a great deal of previously obscure mythology and folklore in which these creatures figure... and all those myths where the serpent is described as the airship of the gods, the vessel from which all human benefits derive, can be seen as symbolic accounts of the early dealings between the gods and men."

So were Schirmer's abductors, by their use of the serpent symbol, claiming to be the heirs of the ancient astronauts? And why, one wonders, have the insignia not been reported from subsequent close encounters? They are said to have told him that one of their purposes in landing had been to obtain electricity from a nearby source, and indeed UFOs have frequently been observed following power lines and hovering near generating plant from which they may have been able to extract power. The phrase "reversible electric magnetism", allegedly the product of the machine he was shown, meant nothing to him and, as it stands, means little to anyone else. Consider, however, the word "reversible" as applied to the force of gravity in the elevator which, Schirmer said, had carried him and his abductor upwards inside the UFO. marked that UFOs appear to defy gravity. "Not only," he writes, "do UFOs appear to be anti-gravitational, they behave as though they had no inertia." He uses the Principle of Equivalence, as postulated by Einstein's General Theory of Relativity, to show that the observed manoeuvres of UFOs, their instant stops and high speed right-angle turns, can be accounted for on the assumption that they have in fact achieved the control of gravitational forces said to have been demonstrated to Schirmer in the UFO.

I am impressed by the police officer's account, his first experience of an abduction scenario, that he devoted much of his subsequent professional career to following up

future cases. There cannot have been many that exceeded in depth and detail the Schirmer case, which seems to demonstrate how a man possessing the observational techniques taught to marines and police continues to employ them effectively even in the traumatic circumstances of an abduction. Some other of these details merit further consideration, especially since many have also featured in later cases.

For the ufonauts to have moved Schirmer's car is paralleled by the total disappearance of a car and passengers enveloped in a white cloud on a road in Tokyo on 19 November 1963⁴ and the teleportation of a car in Natal, South Africa⁶ on 30 May 1974. A truck and its driver were temporarily abducted on 28 August 1979 from Fredricksburg, Virginia⁷. The phenomenon of mental control by ufonauts, whether by the projection of specific radiation or by more subtle means, is a feature of virtually every abduction reported; the subject eventually obeys the abductors, even against his will. The view of the alien solar system, very like a modern hologram, could scarcely have originated in the witness's own mind at a time when laser technology was not known and it may well be the case that his subsequent dreams of an extraterrestrial landscape relate in some way to this 'vision'. The Aveley abductees (Essex, England, 27 October 1974) also claimed⁸ to have been shown holographic videos of an alien world.

The short antenna located over the Ufonaut's left ear seems to have been unique, but it may also be noted that there were injuries to the base of Schirmer's own ear which suggested that a needle had been inserted into the skull. No mention of this features in the hypnotic recall, from which one may infer that the recall may have been less than total, but later accounts of implants received by various abductees imply that something of the kind may have occurred here also. Though information gained from hypnosis will always be to some extent suspect and in need of additional confirmation, there are also a number of cases where witnesses boarded UFOs in full consciousness and remained so throughout an experience that might otherwise be deemed by some hallucinatory. On 3 July 1968 a woman in Quilmes, Argentina did precisely this⁹ and at Venado Tuerto in the same country a twelve year old boy also reported a conscious experience¹⁰ on 6 September 1978. In Aldershot, England, on 12 August 1983 a seventy seven year old fisherman told how he had accepted an invitation to step aboard a landed UFO one night and had done so in the hope of an adventurous trip, only to be summarily rejected. "You may go," said a voice. "You are too old and infirm for our purposes."¹¹

The purposes of the Phenomenon remain as mysterious as the origins of its agents. As in the Schirmer case, suggestions of an extraterrestrial origin have been frequent. The UFO which landed at Socorro, New Mexico¹² on 24 April 1964 bore the Arabic symbol for the planet Venus on its fuselage, while on the very same day two English-speaking humanoids from a landed UFO in Tioga City, New York¹³ assured a farmer there that they

came from Mars. Maybe, as Schirmer was said to have been told, they are indeed just trying to confuse the public mind. Perhaps the best answer to the origin question was given at Houston in April 1897 by the operator of an "airship" UFO who claimed that he and his crew were "From anywhere, but we will be in Greece day after to-morrow." It all poses many interesting questions to which, inevitably, we still have no firm answers. Doubtless this was why the Condon report gave it just two pages as Case 42, expressed doubt that the reported experience was physically real and therefore listed it as "explained". Since then, however, ufologists have been prepared to consider less restrictive paradigms of what is physical and what is real. Corn circles, for instance, are unquestionably physical, but what is their reality status?

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(N.B. Readers of The Scoriton Mystery by Eileen Buckle will have noticed the similar reference to eyes with vertical pupils in the article by Gordon Millington - JG).

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AMSKAYA is the newsletter of the STAR Fellowship, a continuation of the organisation formed in 1960 by Tony Wedd of Chiddingstone, who held that contact was the way ahead for flying saucer investigation. £2 for four quarterly issues from J. Goddard, 25, Albert Road, Addlestone, Weybridge, Surrey, KT15. 2PX. Please make cheques payable to J. Goddard. Original cover design by David Taylor. IF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE AN "X" WILL FOLLOW THIS SENTENCE: